Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method of generating antibodies useful for assaying a sample for fuel oxygenates comprising (i) conjugating a hapten ~~having a CH3O-C((CH3)2 CH2 moiety~~ to a carrier protein to produce a conjugate, <u>wherein said hapten is CH3O-C(CH3)2-CH2-X-B where X is a spacer and B is a group capable of binding to a carrier protein</u>; (ii) injecting the conjugate into an animal; (iii) harvesting antibody-synthesising cells from the animal; (iv) fusing the antibody-synthesising cells with myeloma cells to form hybridoma cells; (v) cultivating the hybridoma cells; (vi) screening the cultivated cells to find desired cells producing monoclonal antibodies capable of binding methyl tert-butyl ether ("MTBE"); and (vii) cultivating said desired cells and harvesting said monoclonal antibodies.

2.   (Cancelled).

3.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~2~~ <u>1</u>, wherein the spacer X comprises a hydrocarbon chain of 2-8 carbon atoms.

4.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~3~~ <u>2</u>, wherein the spacer X is: -CH2.CH2.CH(CH3).CH2-<u>.</u>

5.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~2~~ <u>1</u>, wherein the binding group B is –CHO.

6.   (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein the carrier protein is selected from bovine serum albumin, human serum albumin, rabbit thyroglobin and keyhole limpet haemacyanin.

7.   (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein the monoclonal antibodies exhibit binding to methyl tert-butyl ether, ethyl tert-butyl ether, methyl tert-amyl ether and tert-butyl alcohol.

8.   (Cancelled).

9.   (Currently Amended) A method of assaying a sample for fuel oxygenates and their breakdown products comprising generating antibodies by a method according to claim 1, further comprising and carrying out an immunoassay using said antibodies.

10.   (New) A method according to claim 3, wherein the binding group B is –CHO.

11.   (New) A method according to claim 4, wherein the binding group B is –CHO.